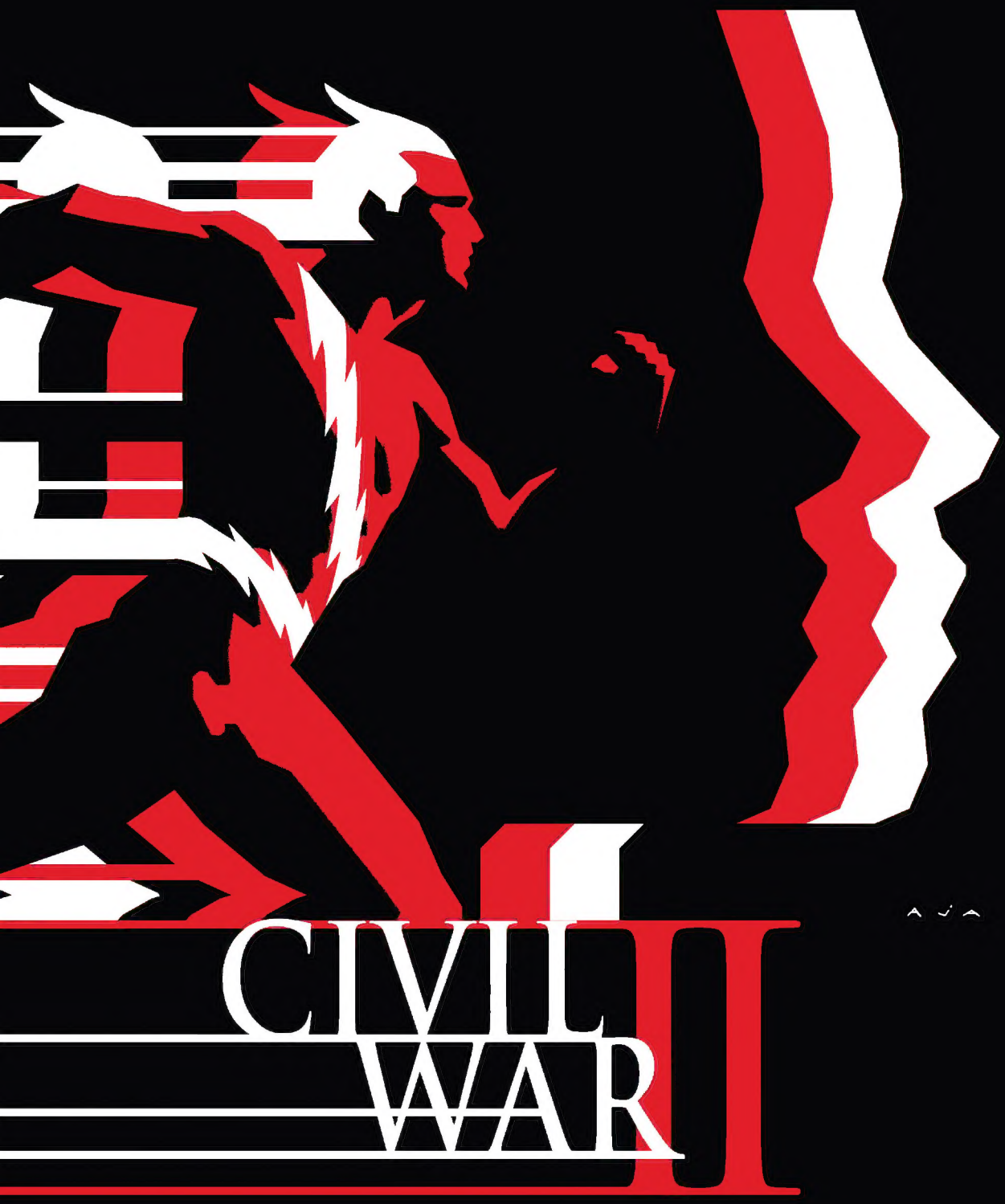
SCARLET WITCH™ 9



ROBINSON
JONES
ROSENBERG

MARVEL

Scarlet Witch

WANDA MAXIMOFF is building a new life for herself. In a desire to atone for her past wrongs, she's using her abilities to help people by solving magical crimes.

But Wanda has discovered something: WITCHCRAFT is broken. Now the SCARLET WITCH is on a mission to find the source of the ailment and fix it.

On one of her recent adventures, Wanda met a Romany woman who called herself "The Scarlet Witch." Her name was NATALYA MAXIMOFF. To Wanda's great surprise, she discovered that the woman was her MOTHER!

But meanwhile, in the larger Marvel Universe, trouble has been brewing...

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SCARLET WITCH CREATED BY **STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY**

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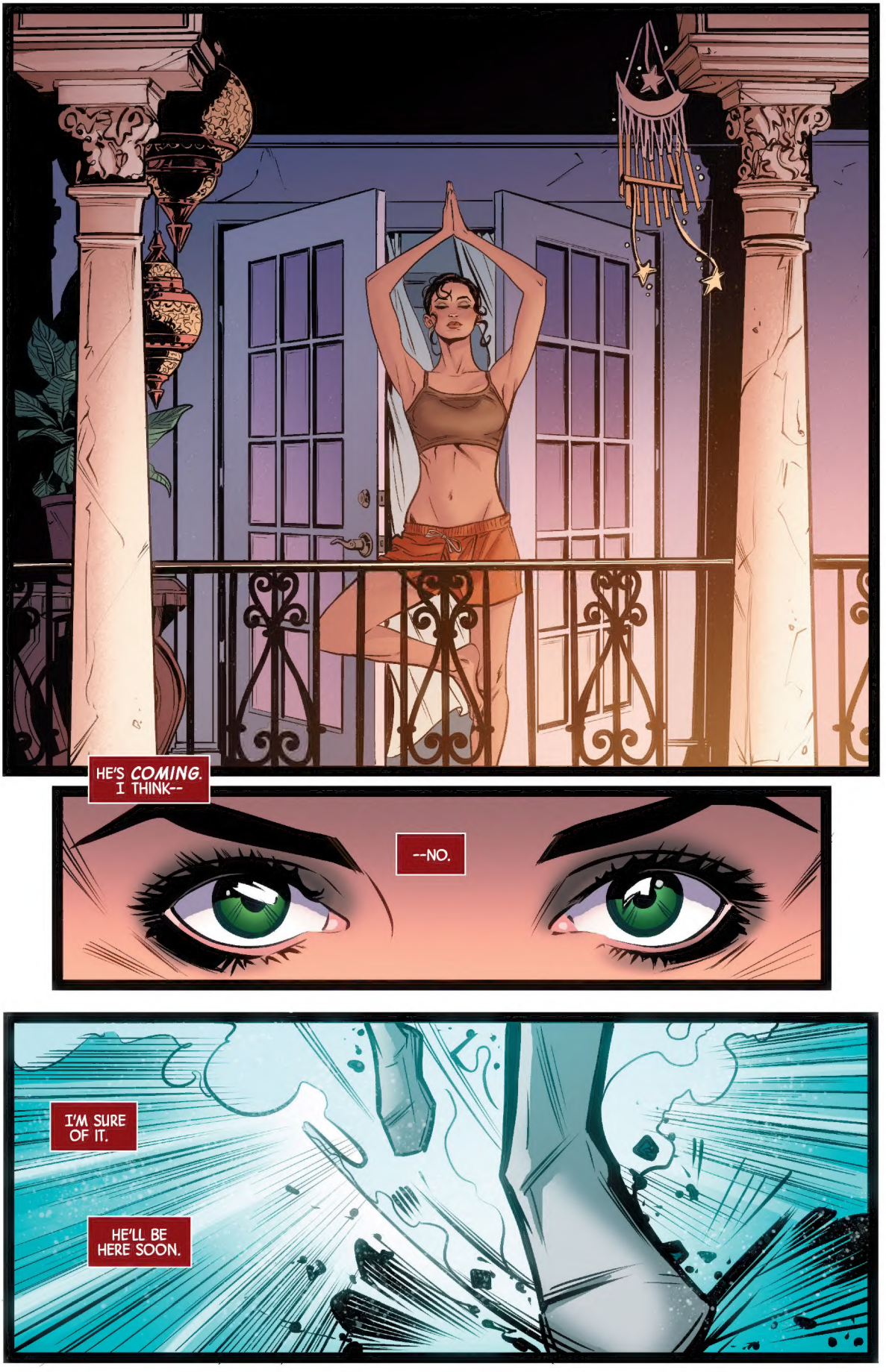
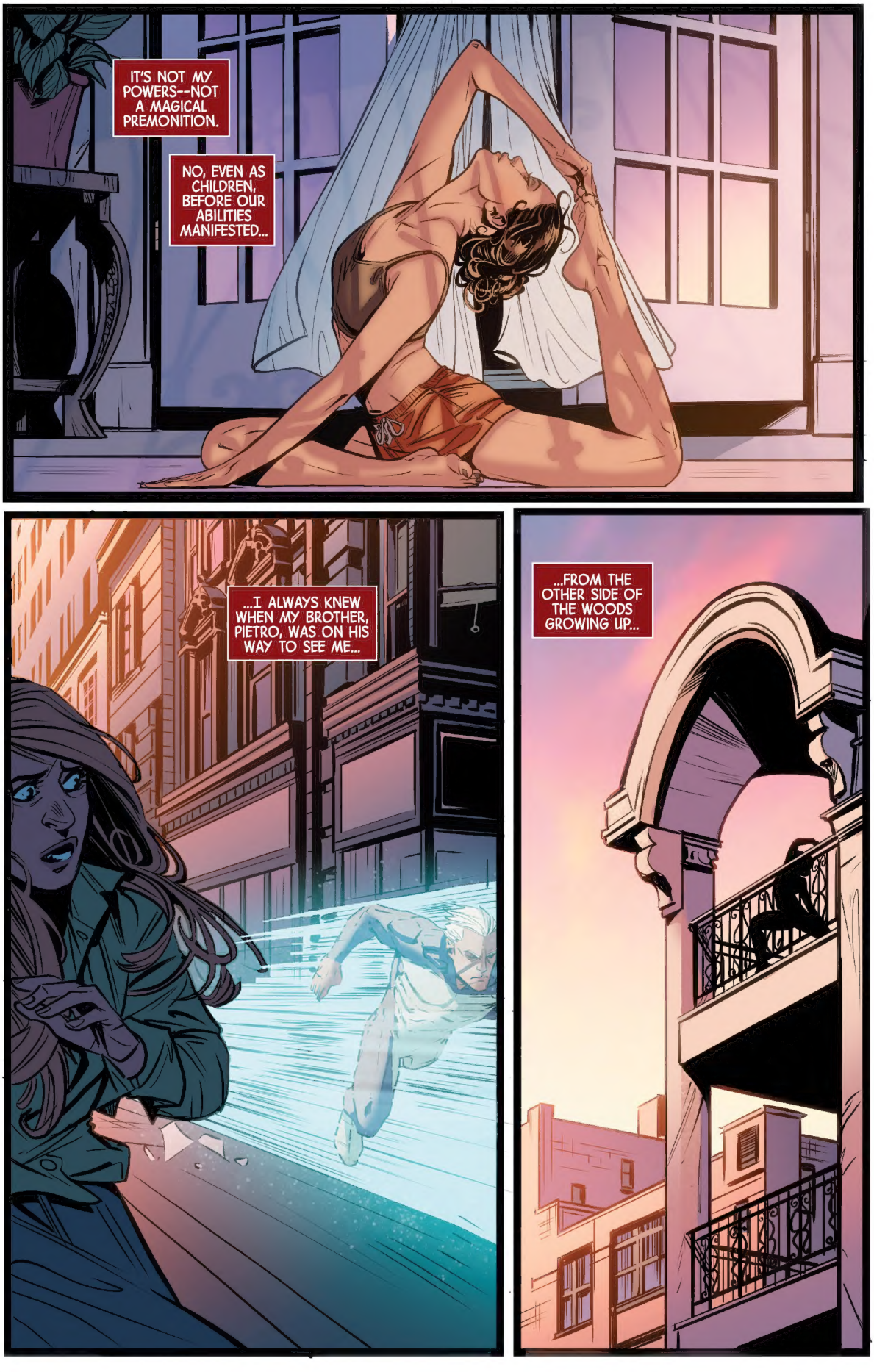
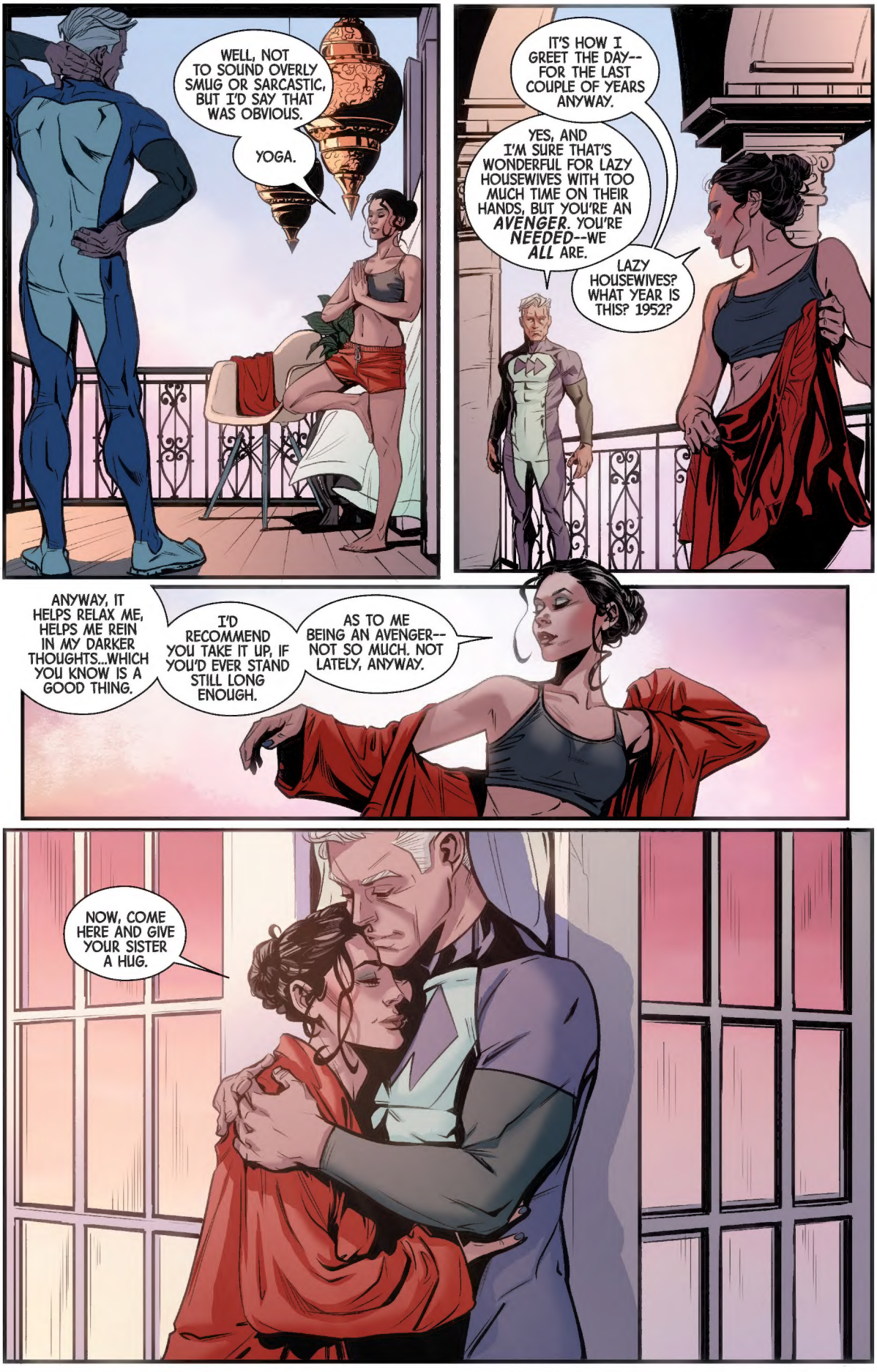
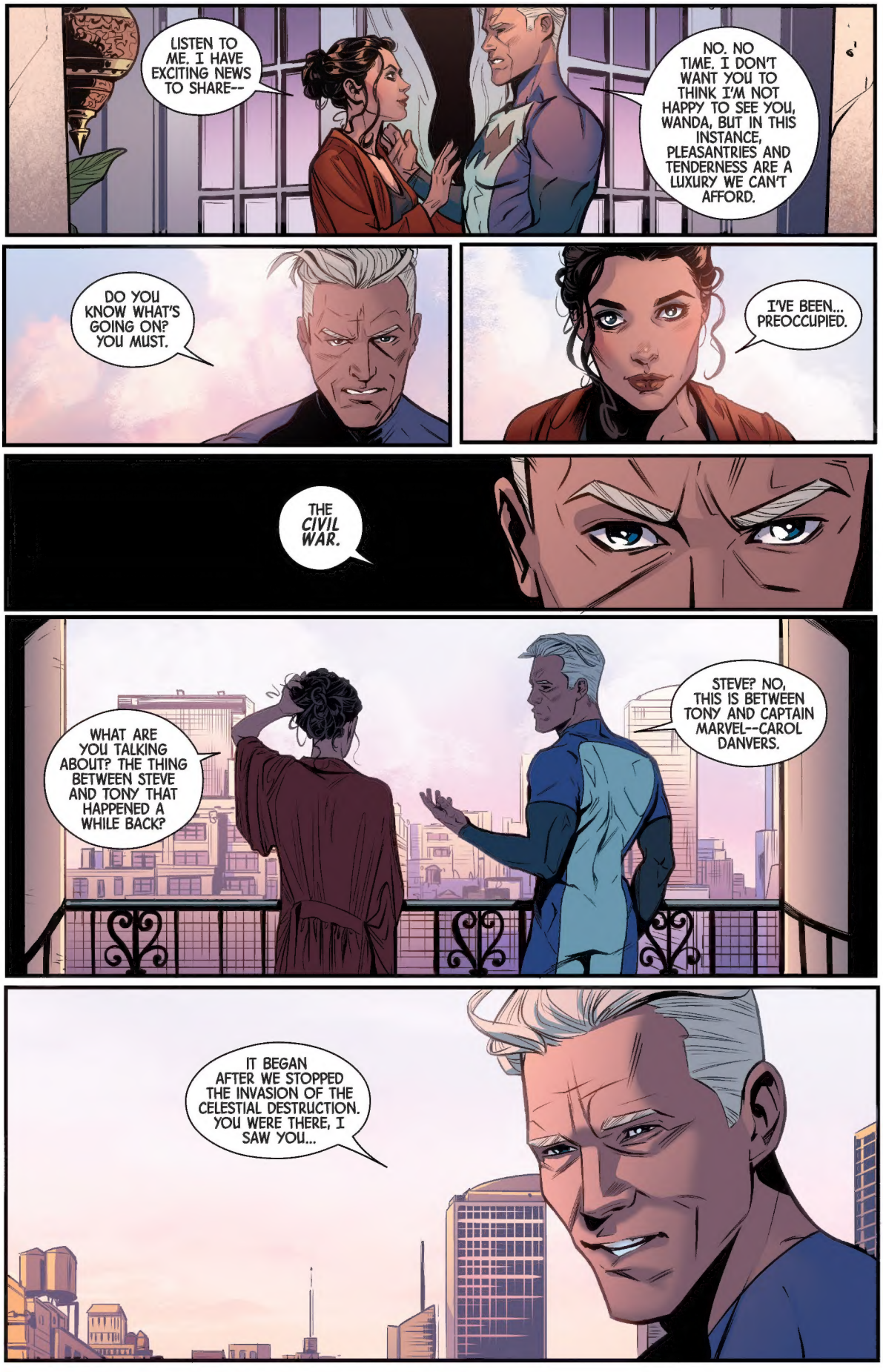
MANHATTAN.


HE'S COMING. I THINK--
--NO.
I'M SURE OF IT.
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.

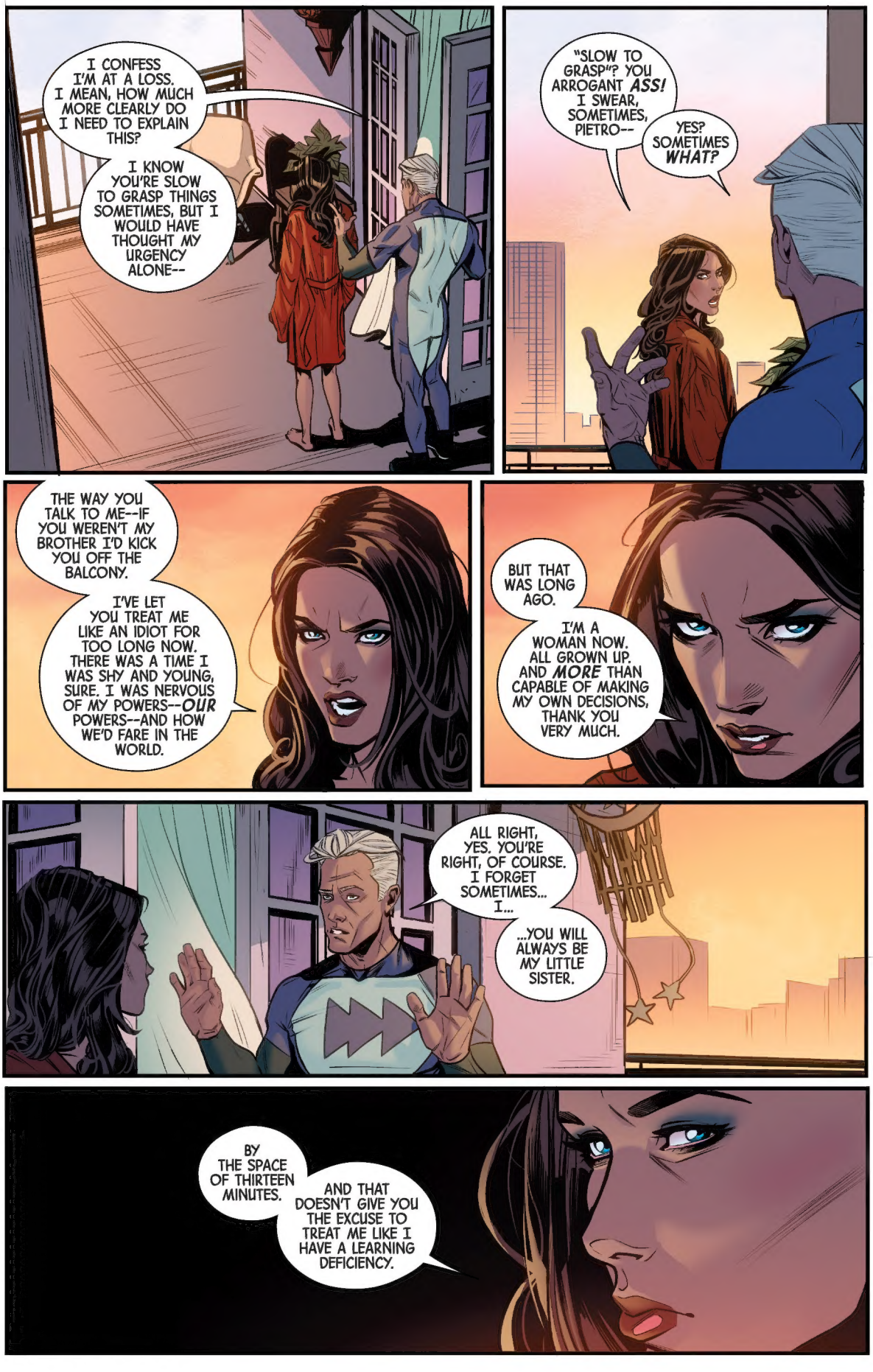

IT'S NOT MY POWERS--NOT A MAGICAL PREMONITION.
NO, EVEN AS CHILDREN, BEFORE OUR ABILITIES MANIFESTED...
...I ALWAYS KNEW WHEN MY BROTHER, PIETRO, WAS ON HIS WAY TO SEE ME...
...FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WOODS GROWING UP...

...OR THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD TODAY.
WANDA! SISTER!
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU DOING?

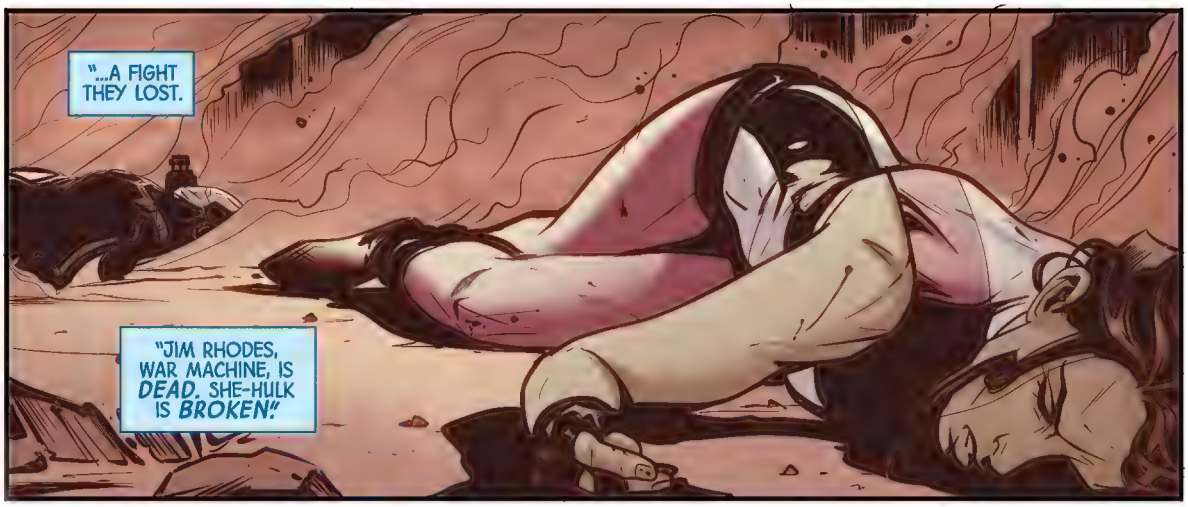

WELL, NOT TO SOUND OVERLY SMUG OR SARCASTIC, BUT I'D SAY THAT WAS OBVIOUS.
YOGA.
IT'S HOW I GREET THE DAY-- FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS ANYWAY.
YES, AND I'M SURE THAT'S WONDERFUL FOR LAZY HOUSEWIVES WITH TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS, BUT YOU'RE AN AVENGER. YOU'RE NEEDED--WE ALL ARE.
LAZY HOUSEWIVES? WHAT YEAR IS THIS? 1952?
ANYWAY, IT HELPS RELAX ME, HELPS ME REIN IN MY DARKER THOUGHTS...WHICH YOU KNOW IS A GOOD THING.
I'D RECOMMEND YOU TAKE IT UP, IF YOU'D EVER STAND STILL LONG ENOUGH.
AS TO ME BEING AN AVENGER-- NOT SO MUCH. NOT LATELY, ANYWAY.
NOW, COME HERE AND GIVE YOUR SISTER A HUG.


LISTEN TO ME. I HAVE EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE--
NO. NO TIME. I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M NOT HAPPY TO SEE YOU, WANDA, BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, PLEASANTRIES AND TENDERNESS ARE A LUXURY WE CAN'T AFFORD.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU MUST.
I'VE BEEN... PREOCCUPIED.
THE CIVIL WAR.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE THING BETWEEN STEVE AND TONY THAT HAPPENED A WHILE BACK?
STEVE? NO, THIS IS BETWEEN TONY AND CAPTAIN MARVEL--CAROL DANVERS.
IT BEGAN AFTER WE STOPPED THE INVASION OF THE CELESTIAL DESTRUCTION. YOU WERE THERE, I SAW YOU...

"...YES, STEPHEN STRANGE, YOU AND ALL THE OTHER MAGICAL TYPES FASHIONED SOME KIND OF EPIC SPELL AS PART OF EARTH'S DEFENSE."
I WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING TO YOU THEN...BUT I WAS CAUGHT UP IN MY OWN PART OF THE EVENT.
ANYWAY, IT WAS LATER--GOD, WANDA HAVEN'T YOU BEEN FOLLOWING ALL THAT HAPPENED IN THE AFTERMATH?
WELL...I'VE BEEN BUSY, PIETRO. IN FACT, I'VE MADE A FANTASTIC DISCOVERY THAT WE BOTH--
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GO NOW. YOUR POWERS--WE NEED THEM TO WIN--TO END IT BEFORE MORE BLOOD IS SPILLED.
WANDA, WILL YOU SHUT UP AND DO AS I TELL YOU?!
NO.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

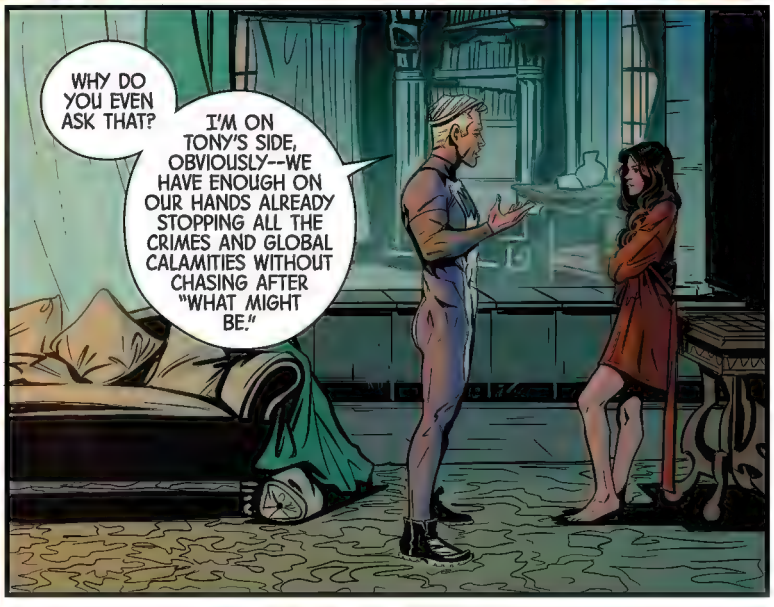

I CONFESS I'M AT A LOSS. I MEAN, HOW MUCH MORE CLEARLY DO I NEED TO EXPLAIN THIS?
I KNOW YOU'RE SLOW TO GRASP THINGS SOMETIMES, BUT I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT MY URGENCY ALONE--
"SLOW TO GRASP"? YOU ARROGANT ASS! I SWEAR, SOMETIMES, PIETRO--
YES? SOMETIMES WHAT?
THE WAY YOU TALK TO ME--IF YOU WEREN'T MY BROTHER I'D KICK YOU OFF THE BALCONY.
I'VE LET YOU TREAT ME LIKE AN IDIOT FOR TOO LONG NOW. THERE WAS A TIME I WAS SHY AND YOUNG, SURE. I WAS NERVOUS OF MY POWERS--OUR POWERS--AND HOW WE'D FARE IN THE WORLD.
BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO.
I'M A WOMAN NOW. ALL GROWN UP. AND MORE THAN CAPABLE OF MAKING MY OWN DECISIONS, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ALL RIGHT, YES. YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. I FORGET SOMETIMES... I...
...YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY LITTLE SISTER.
BY THE SPACE OF THIRTEEN MINUTES.
AND THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE EXCUSE TO TREAT ME LIKE I HAVE A LEARNING DEFICIENCY.

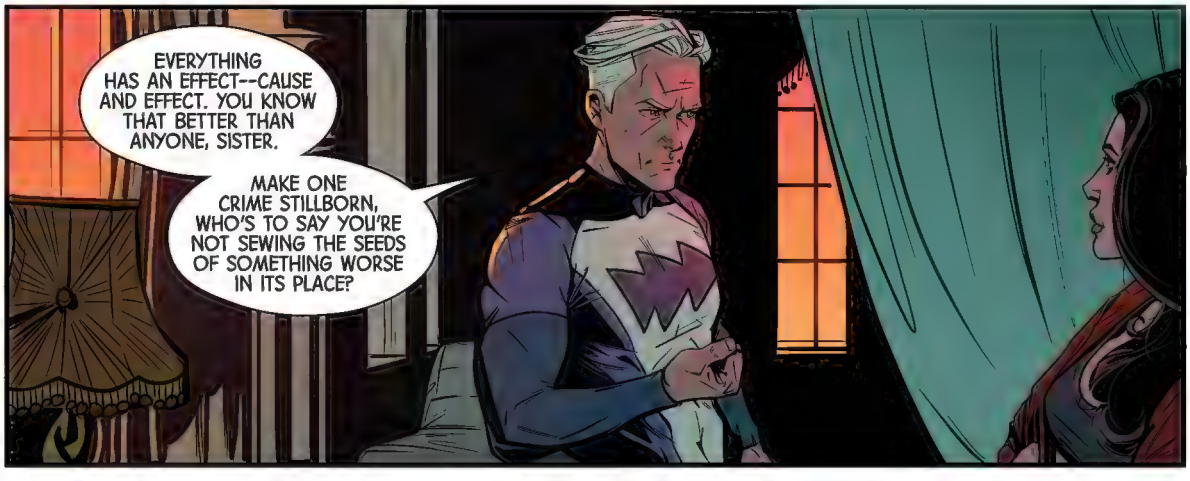
AGAIN, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M RUDE BY NATURE...I KNOW IT.
KNOW IT? YOU DELIGHT IN IT.
AND PERHAPS IT WAS MY EXPLAINING--AS RUSHED AS EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT ME--THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE URGENCY CLEAR.
THE INHUMANS HAVE A SEER AMONG THEM--A YOUNG FELLOW NAMED ULYSSES. IT WAS HIS POWER TO FORETELL THAT ALLOWED US TO PREEMPT THE INVASION.
WE FOUND OUT AFTERWARDS THAT CAROL WAS TAKEN WITH THE NOTION OF CONTINUING TO EMPLOY ULYSSES AS AN "ASSET"--TO END CRIMES *BEFORE* THEY'RE COMMITTED.
TONY STARK QUITE RIGHTLY SAW THIS AS A SLIPPERY SLOPE. AT WHAT POINT DOES "PREVENTION" BECOME ITS OWN UNIQUE FORM OF FASCIST POLICING WHERE PEOPLE ARE PUNISHED FOR THINGS THEY HAVEN'T DONE YET?
AND THAT WAS THAT...EACH OF THEM GOING OFF WITH THEIR DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE IDEOLOGIES.
"BUT CAROL GOT HER HANDS ON ULYSSES AND HAD HIM TELL HER WHERE THANOS WAS GOING TO APPEAR NEXT.
"SHE TOOK A TEAM TO FIGHT HIM...

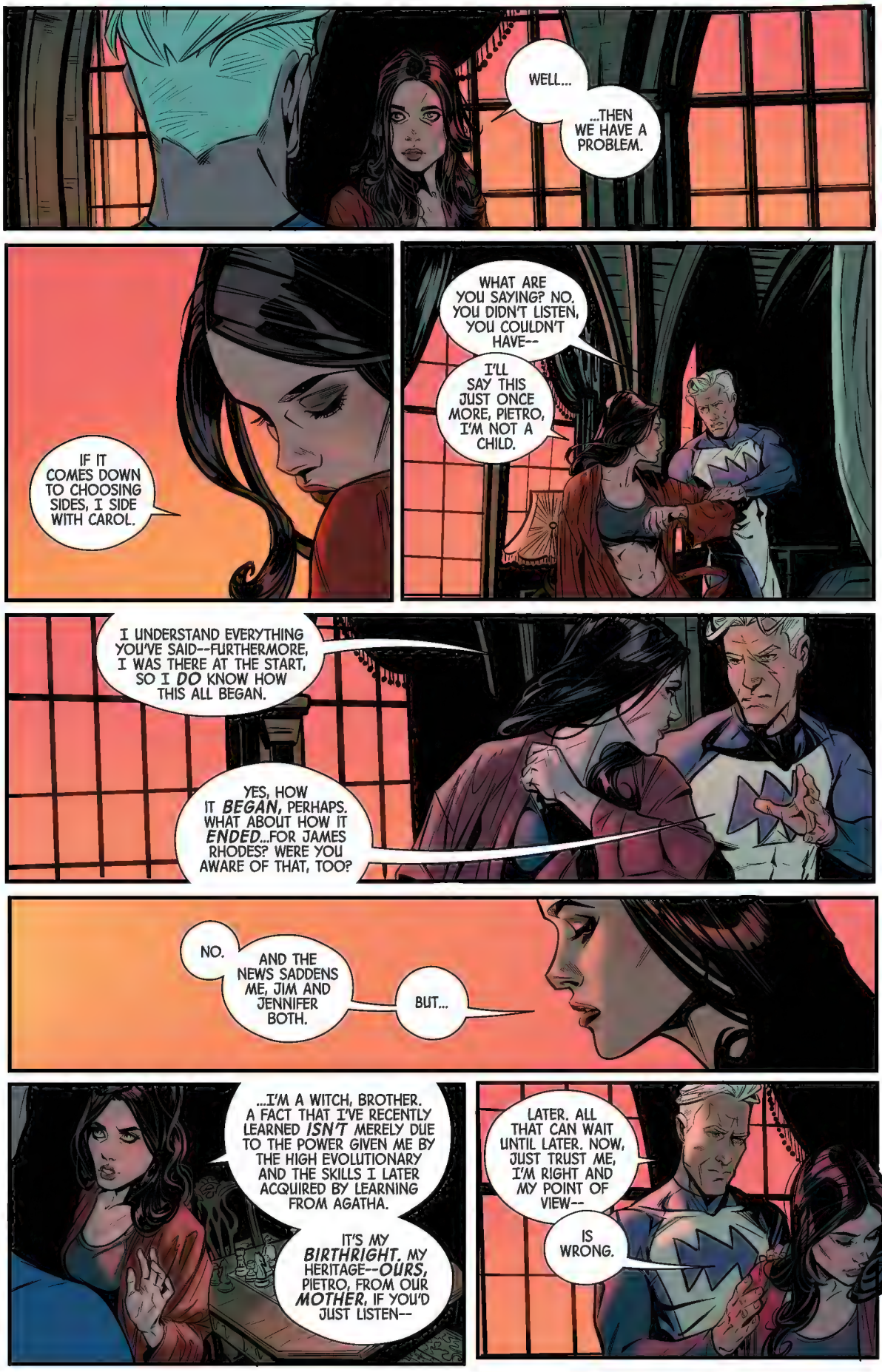

"...A FIGHT THEY LOST.
"JIM RHODES, WAR MACHINE, IS *DEAD*. SHE-HULK IS *BROKEN*."

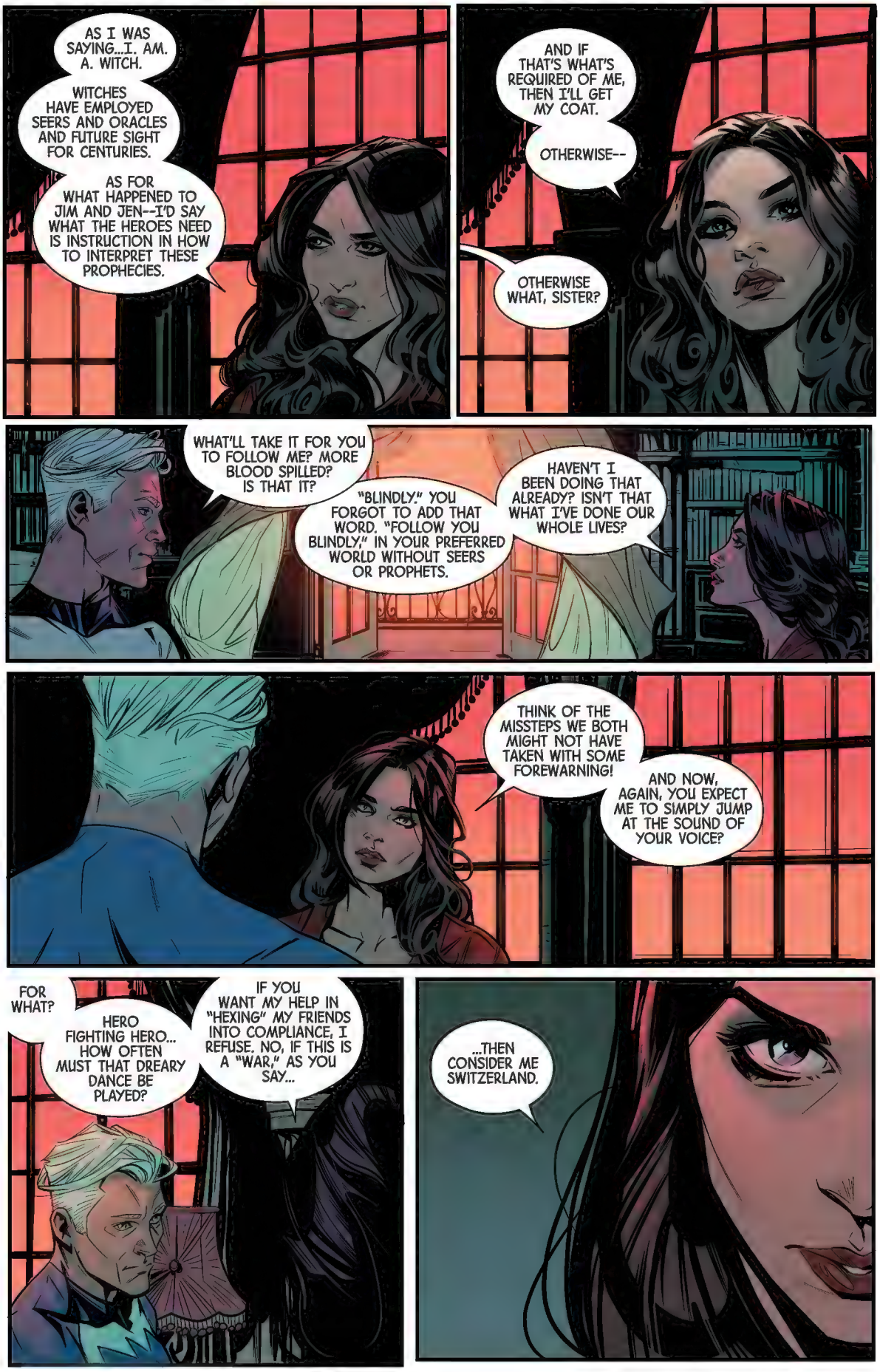
IN THE AFTERMATH, TONY AND CAROL HAD...AN ESCALATION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES. IT'S SPILLED OVER EVERYWHERE. EVERYONE HAS TAKEN A SIDE.

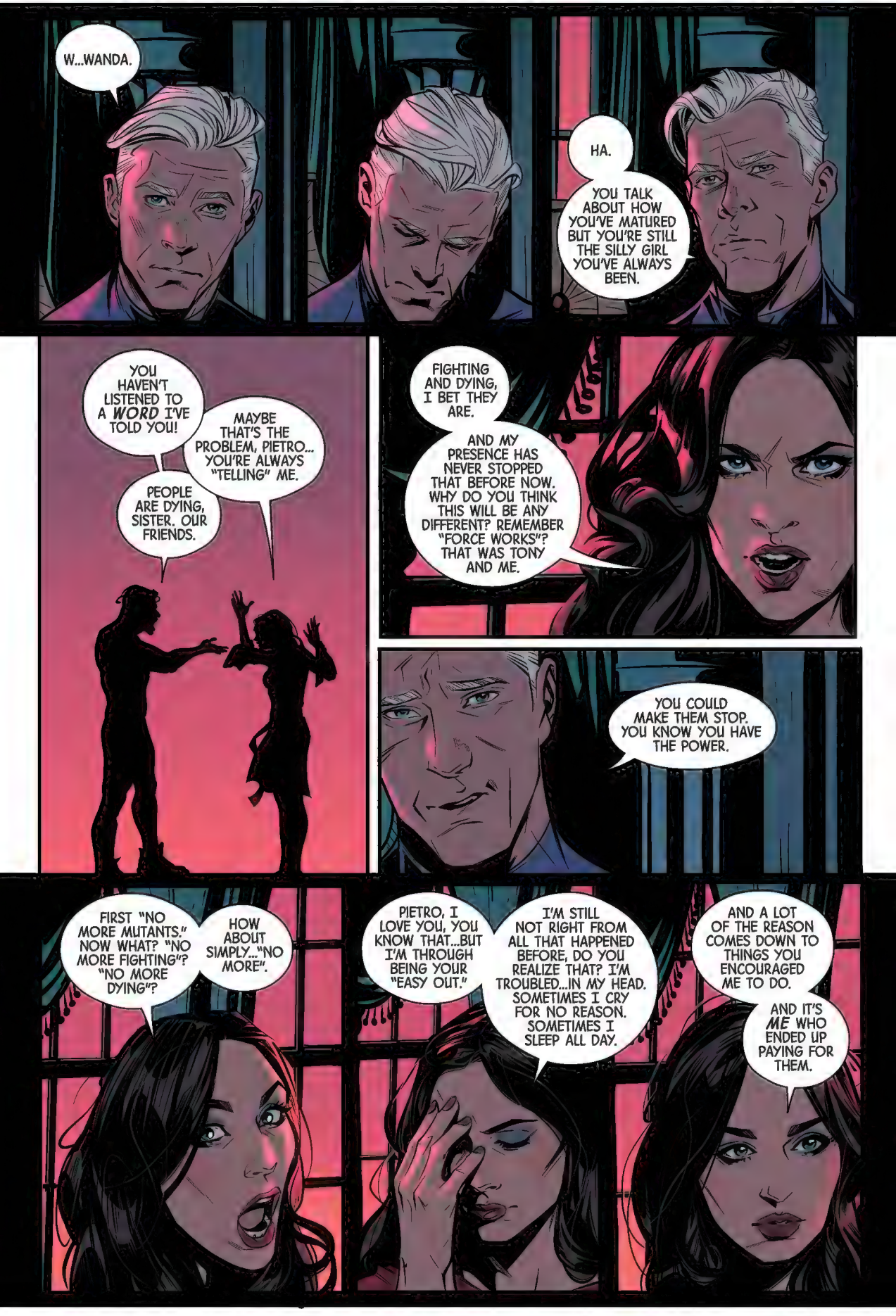
AND WHAT SIDE ARE YOU ON, BROTHER?

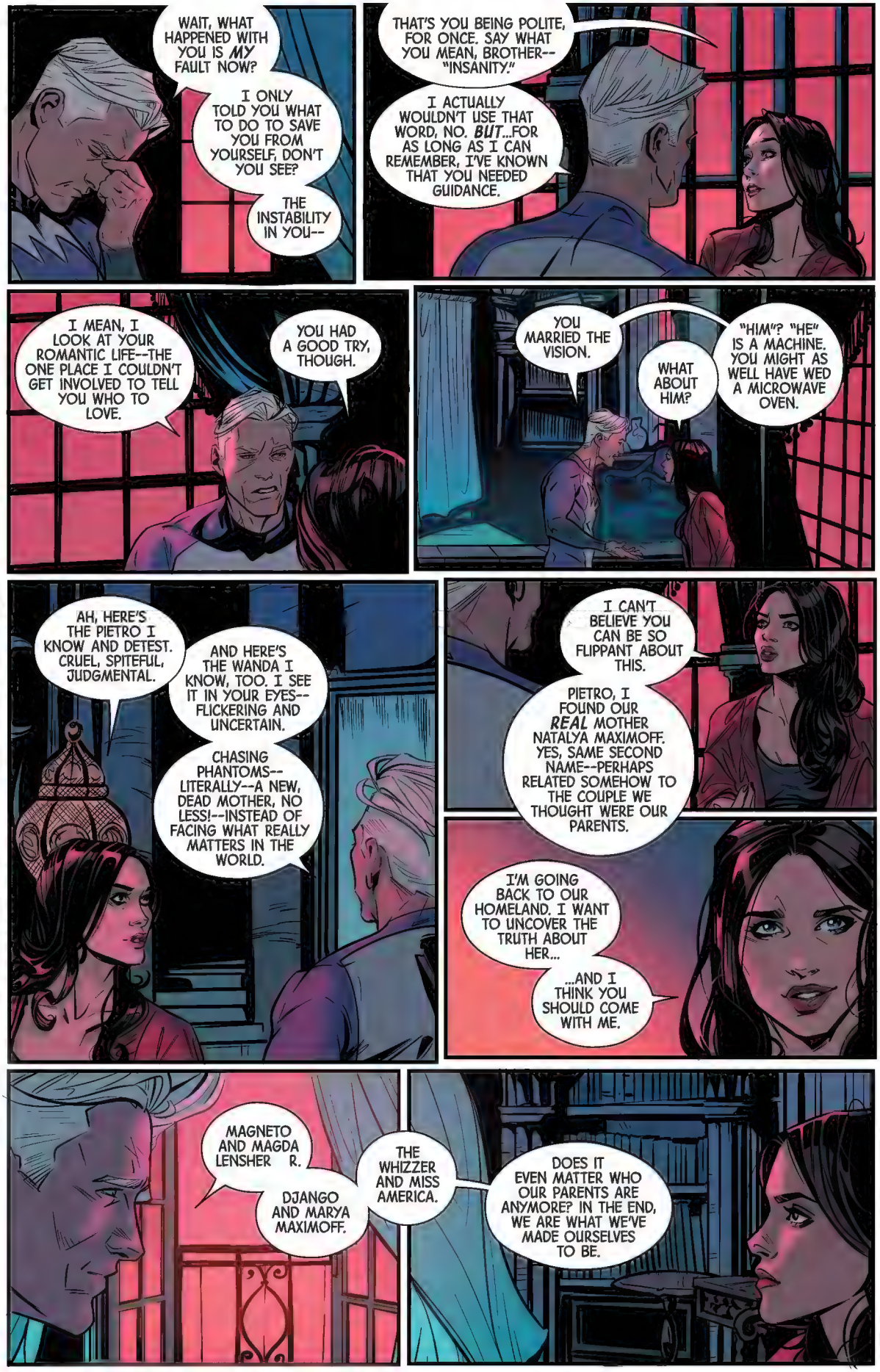

WHY DO YOU EVEN ASK THAT?
I'M ON TONY'S SIDE, OBVIOUSLY--WE HAVE ENOUGH ON OUR HANDS ALREADY STOPPING ALL THE CRIMES AND GLOBAL CALAMITIES WITHOUT CHASING AFTER "WHAT MIGHT BE."

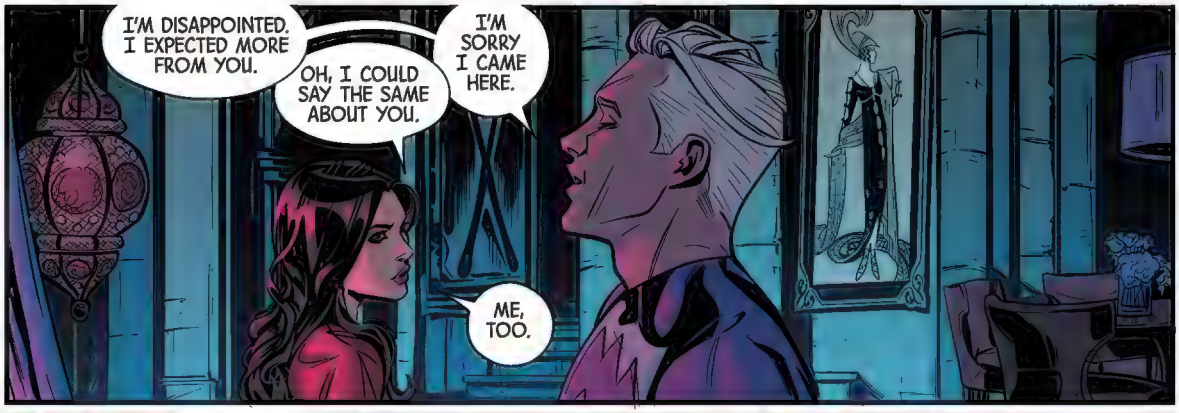

EVERYTHING HAS AN EFFECT--CAUSE AND EFFECT. YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE, SISTER.
MAKE ONE CRIME STILLBORN, WHO'S TO SAY YOU'RE NOT SEWING THE SEEDS OF SOMETHING WORSE IN ITS PLACE?


WELL...
...THEN WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
IF IT COMES DOWN TO CHOOSING SIDES, I SIDE WITH CAROL.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? NO. YOU DIDN'T LISTEN, YOU COULDN'T HAVE--
I'LL SAY THIS JUST ONCE MORE, PIETRO, I'M NOT A CHILD.
I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID--FURTHERMORE, I WAS THERE AT THE START, SO I DO KNOW HOW THIS ALL BEGAN.
YES, HOW IT BEGAN, PERHAPS. WHAT ABOUT HOW IT ENDED...FOR JAMES RHODES? WERE YOU AWARE OF THAT, TOO?
NO.
AND THE NEWS SADDENS ME, JIM AND JENNIFER BOTH.
BUT...
...I'M A WITCH, BROTHER. A FACT THAT I'VE RECENTLY LEARNED ISN'T MERELY DUE TO THE POWER GIVEN ME BY THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY AND THE SKILLS I LATER ACQUIRED BY LEARNING FROM AGATHA.
IT'S MY BIRTHRIGHT. MY HERITAGE--OURS, PIETRO, FROM OUR MOTHER, IF YOU'D JUST LISTEN--
LATER. ALL THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL LATER. NOW, JUST TRUST ME, I'M RIGHT AND MY POINT OF VIEW--
IS WRONG.


AS I WAS SAYING...I. AM. A. WITCH.
WITCHES HAVE EMPLOYED SEERS AND ORACLES AND FUTURE SIGHT FOR CENTURIES.
AS FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO JIM AND JEN--I'D SAY WHAT THE HEROES NEED IS INSTRUCTION IN HOW TO INTERPRET THESE PROPHECIES.
AND IF THAT'S WHAT'S REQUIRED OF ME, THEN I'LL GET MY COAT.
OTHERWISE--
OTHERWISE WHAT, SISTER?
WHAT'LL TAKE IT FOR YOU TO FOLLOW ME? MORE BLOOD SPILLED? IS THAT IT?
"BLINDLY." YOU FORGOT TO ADD THAT WORD. "FOLLOW YOU BLINDLY," IN YOUR PREFERRED WORLD WITHOUT SEERS OR PROPHETS.
HAVEN'T I BEEN DOING THAT ALREADY? ISN'T THAT WHAT I'VE DONE OUR WHOLE LIVES?
THINK OF THE MISSTEPS WE BOTH MIGHT NOT HAVE TAKEN WITH SOME FOREWARNING!
AND NOW, AGAIN, YOU EXPECT ME TO SIMPLY JUMP AT THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE?
FOR WHAT?
HERO FIGHTING HERO... HOW OFTEN MUST THAT DREARY DANCE BE PLAYED?
IF YOU WANT MY HELP IN "HEXING" MY FRIENDS INTO COMPLIANCE, I REFUSE. NO, IF THIS IS A "WAR," AS YOU SAY...
...THEN CONSIDER ME SWITZERLAND.

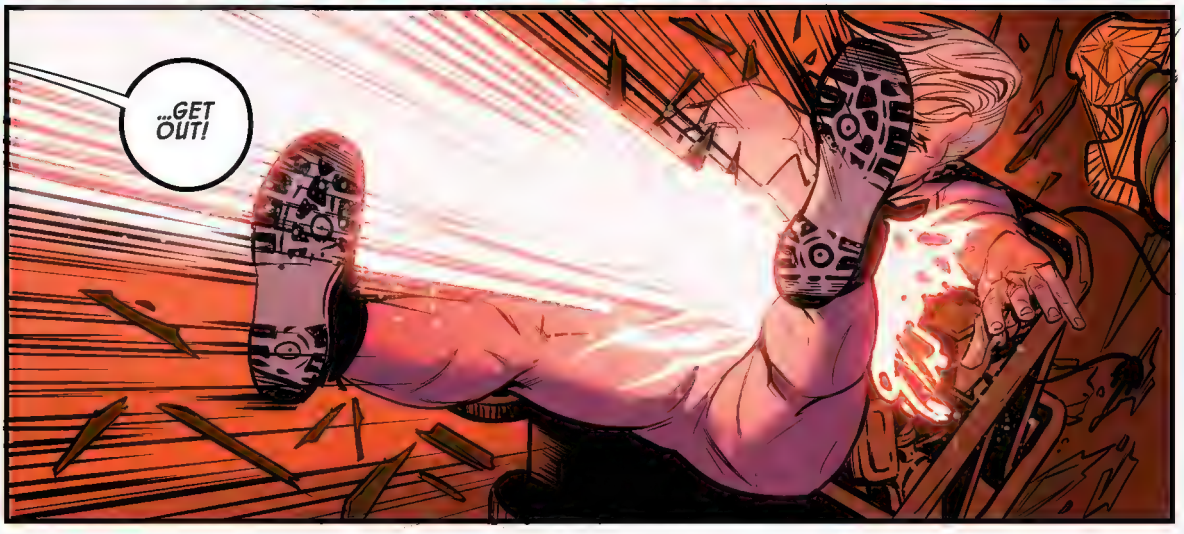

W...WANDA.
HA.
YOU TALK ABOUT HOW YOU'VE MATURED BUT YOU'RE STILL THE SILLY GIRL YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
YOU HAVEN'T LISTENED TO A WORD I'VE TOLD YOU!
MAYBE THAT'S THE PROBLEM, PIETRO... YOU'RE ALWAYS "TELLING" ME.
PEOPLE ARE DYING, SISTER. OUR FRIENDS.
FIGHTING AND DYING, I BET THEY ARE.
AND MY PRESENCE HAS NEVER STOPPED THAT BEFORE NOW. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT? REMEMBER "FORCE WORKS"? THAT WAS TONY AND ME.
YOU COULD MAKE THEM STOP. YOU KNOW YOU HAVE THE POWER.
FIRST "NO MORE MUTANTS." NOW WHAT? "NO MORE FIGHTING"? "NO MORE DYING"?
HOW ABOUT SIMPLY..."NO MORE".
PIETRO, I LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW THAT...BUT I'M THROUGH BEING YOUR "EASY OUT."
I'M STILL NOT RIGHT FROM ALL THAT HAPPENED BEFORE, DO YOU REALIZE THAT? I'M TROUBLED...IN MY HEAD. SOMETIMES I CRY FOR NO REASON. SOMETIMES I SLEEP ALL DAY.
AND A LOT OF THE REASON COMES DOWN TO THINGS YOU ENCOURAGED ME TO DO.
AND IT'S ME WHO ENDED UP PAYING FOR THEM.


WAIT, WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU IS MY FAULT NOW?
I ONLY TOLD YOU WHAT TO DO TO SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF, DON'T YOU SEE?
THE INSTABILITY IN YOU--
THAT'S YOU BEING POLITE, FOR ONCE. SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, BROTHER-- "INSANITY."
I ACTUALLY WOULDN'T USE THAT WORD, NO. BUT...FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE KNOWN THAT YOU NEEDED GUIDANCE.
I MEAN, I LOOK AT YOUR ROMANTIC LIFE--THE ONE PLACE I COULDN'T GET INVOLVED TO TELL YOU WHO TO LOVE.
YOU HAD A GOOD TRY, THOUGH.
YOU MARRIED THE VISION.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
"HIM"? "HE" IS A MACHINE. YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE WED A MICROWAVE OVEN.
AH, HERE'S THE PIETRO I KNOW AND DETEST. CRUEL, SPITEFUL, JUDGMENTAL.
AND HERE'S THE WANDA I KNOW, TOO. I SEE IT IN YOUR EYES-- FLICKERING AND UNCERTAIN.
CHASING PHANTOMS-- LITERALLY--A NEW, DEAD MOTHER, NO LESS!--INSTEAD OF FACING WHAT REALLY MATTERS IN THE WORLD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN BE SO FLIPPANT ABOUT THIS.
PIETRO, I FOUND OUR REAL MOTHER NATALYA MAXIMOFF. YES, SAME SECOND NAME--PERHAPS RELATED SOMEHOW TO THE COUPLE WE THOUGHT WERE OUR PARENTS.
I'M GOING BACK TO OUR HOMELAND. I WANT TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT HER...
...AND I THINK YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.
MAGNETO AND MAGDA LENSHER R.
DJANGO AND MARYA MAXIMOFF.
THE WHIZZER AND MISS AMERICA.
DOES IT EVEN MATTER WHO OUR PARENTS ARE ANYMORE? IN THE END, WE ARE WHAT WE'VE MADE OURSELVES TO BE.


I'M DISAPPOINTED. I EXPECTED MORE FROM YOU.
OH, I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
I'M SORRY I CAME HERE.
ME, TOO.

YOU KNOW... I MISS THE GIRL YOU USED TO BE. THE MEEK LITTLE FOLLOWER.
WELL, SHE'S GONE AND *NEVER* COMING BACK.
AND IF YOU'RE SO SORRY TO SEE ME, THEN *YOU* SHOULD GO, TOO. *GO ON!*
WHEN I'M READY. I WAS NEVER AS GOOD AT FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS AS *YOU* WERE.

THIS IS *MY* HOME...


...GET OUT!

OH, SISTER...

...YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT.

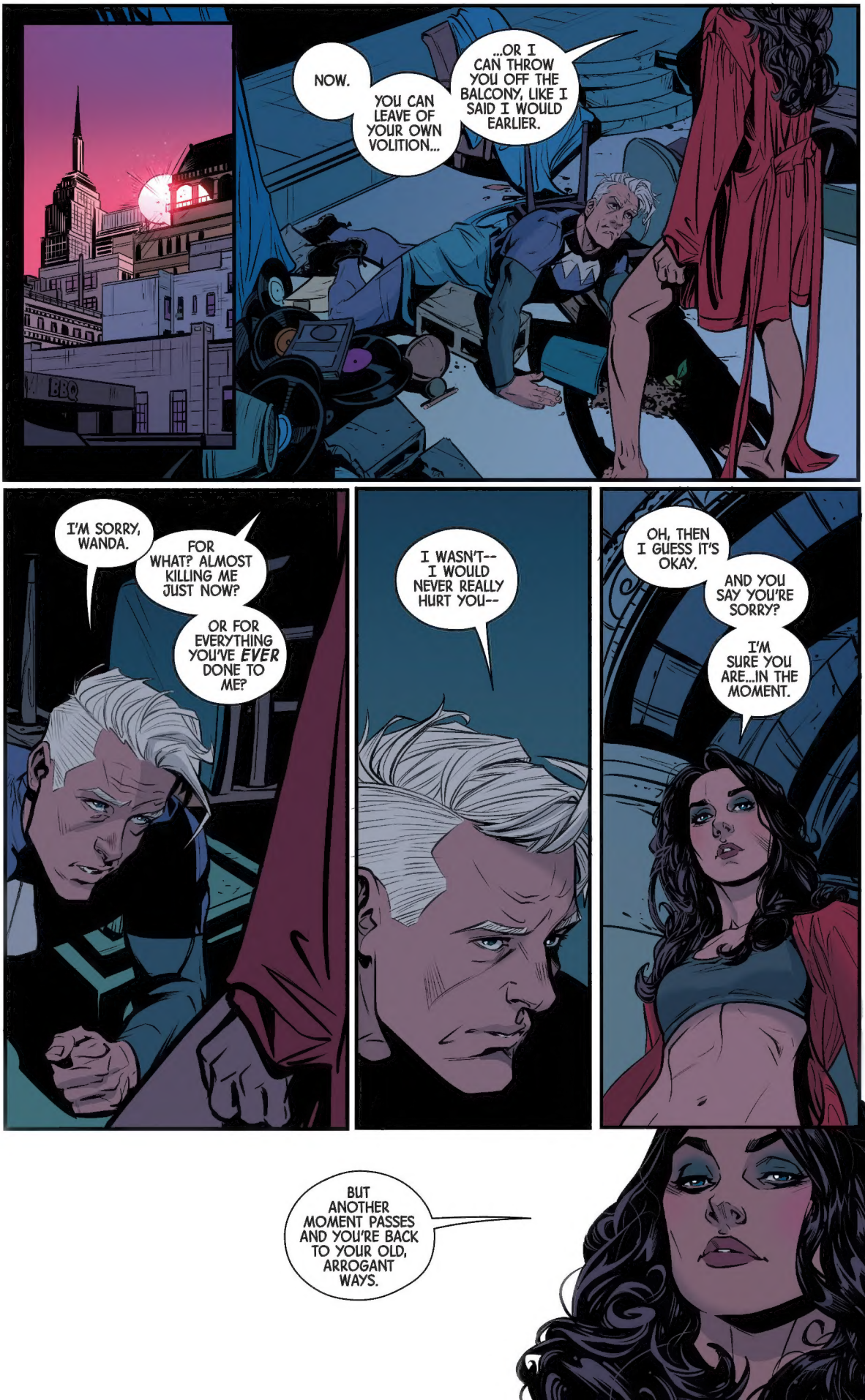
YOU'VE ALWAYS NEEDED LOOKING AFTER...

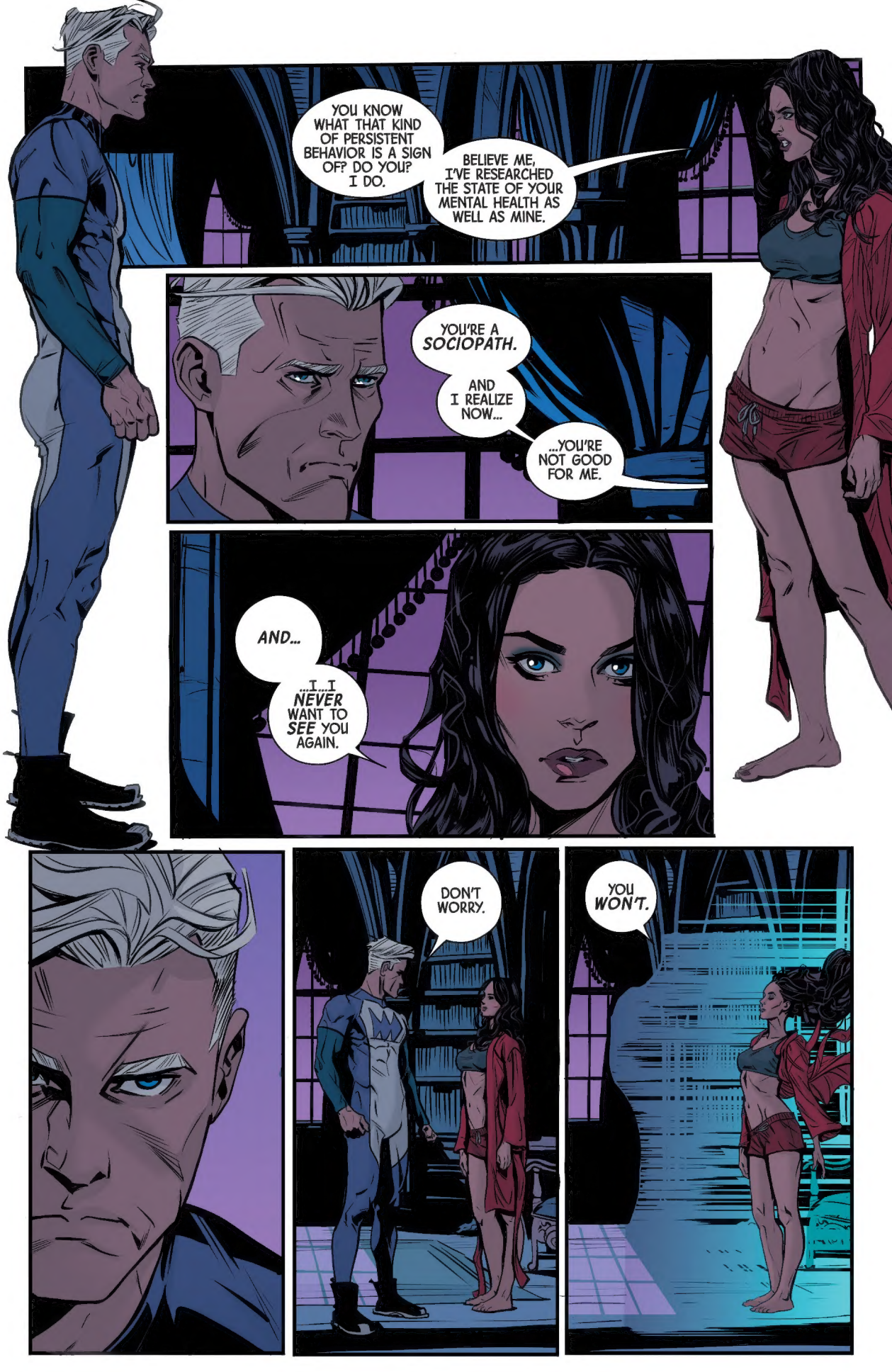
...SO LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU.

CAN'T BREATHE... PIETRO... BROTHER, PLEA--

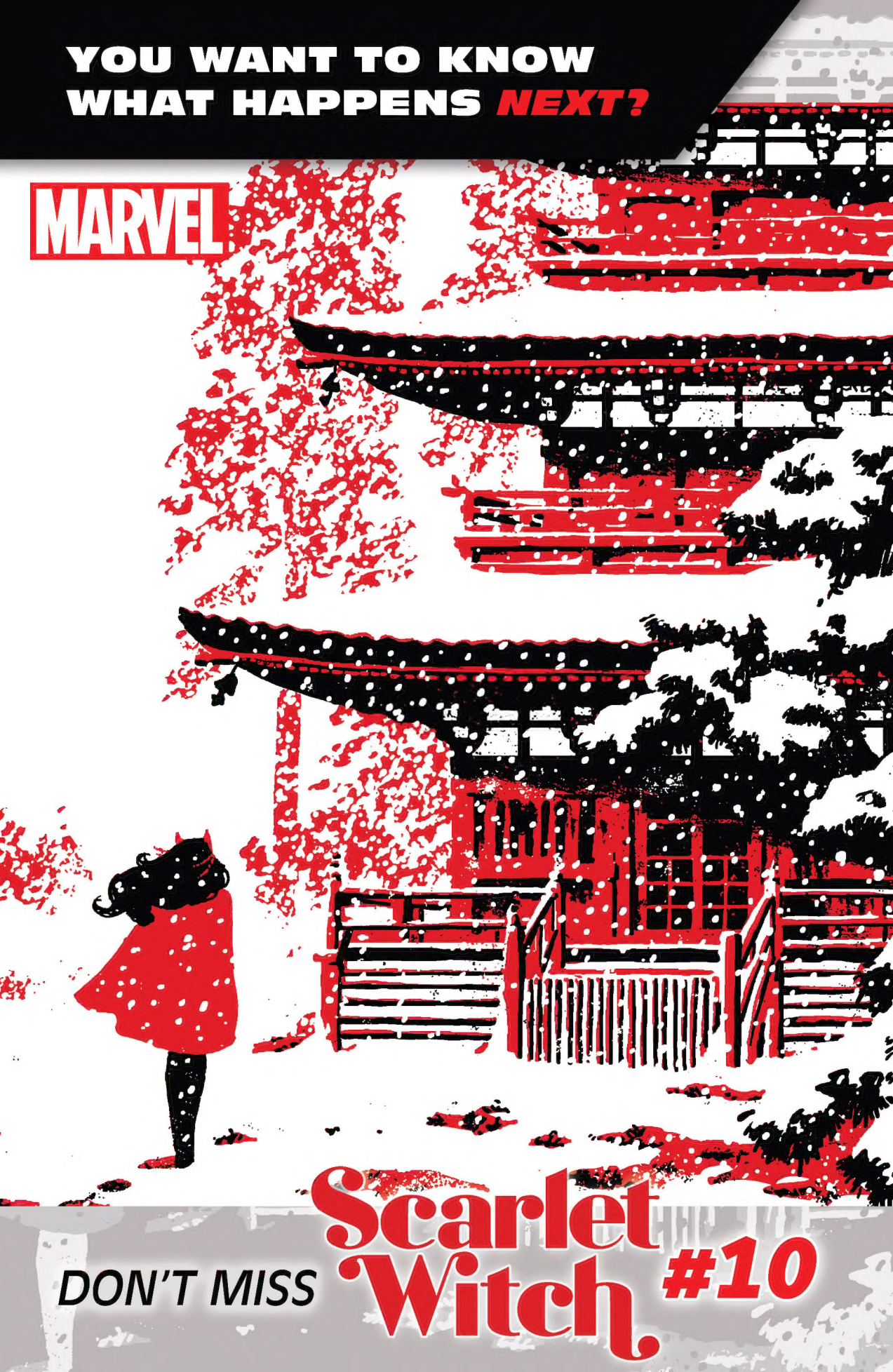
NO! I DON'T WANT YOUR MERCY!

I DON'T NEED IT!


BBQ
NOW.
YOU CAN LEAVE OF YOUR OWN VOLITION...
...OR I CAN THROW YOU OFF THE BALCONY, LIKE I SAID I WOULD EARLIER.
I'M SORRY, WANDA.
FOR WHAT? ALMOST KILLING ME JUST NOW?
OR FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER DONE TO ME?
I WASN'T-- I WOULD NEVER REALLY HURT YOU--
OH, THEN I GUESS IT'S OKAY.
AND YOU SAY YOU'RE SORRY?
I'M SURE YOU ARE...IN THE MOMENT.
BUT ANOTHER MOMENT PASSES AND YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR OLD, ARROGANT WAYS.


YOU KNOW WHAT THAT KIND OF PERSISTENT BEHAVIOR IS A SIGN OF? DO YOU? I DO.
BELIEVE ME, I'VE RESEARCHED THE STATE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AS WELL AS MINE.
YOU'RE A SOCIOPATH.
AND I REALIZE NOW...
...YOU'RE NOT GOOD FOR ME.
AND...
...I...I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
DON'T WORRY.
YOU WON'T.

PIETRO.
NEXT: JAPANESE SPELLS...AND FOXES.


YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
MARVEL
DON'T MISS
Scarlet Witch
#10